A Young Puritan’s Code

by Jonathan Edwards

Being sensible that I am unable to do anything without God’s help, I do humbly entreat him by His Grace to enable me to keep these resolutions so far as they are agreeable to His Will, for Christ’s sake.

**Remember to read over these resolutions at least once a week:**

Resolved, never to do, see, or suffer anything in soul or body, less or more, but what tends to the Glory of God.

Resolved, never to lose one moment of time; but improve it in the most profitable way I possibly can.

Resolved, to live with all my might while I do live.

Resolved, never to do anything which I should be afraid to do if it were the last hour of my life.

Resolved, to think much, on all occasions, of my own dying and of the common circumstances which attend death.

Resolved, to be endeavoring to find out fit objects of charity and liberty.

Resolved, never to do anything out of revenge.

Resolved, never to suffer the least motions of anger to irrational beings.

Resolved, never to speak evil of any person except some particular good call for it.

Resolved, to maintain the strictest temperance in eating and drinking.

Resolved, never to do anything which if I should see in another, I should count a just occasion to despise him for, or to think any way the more meanly of him.

Resolved, to study the Scriptures so steadily, constantly, frequently, as that I may find and plainly perceive myself to grow in the knowledge of the same.

Resolved, never to speak anything that is ridiculous or matter of laughter on the Lord’s Day.

Whenever I hear anything spoken in conversation of any person, if I think it would be praiseworthy in me, resolved to endeavor to imitate it.

Resolved, after afflictions, to inquire what I am the better for them; what good I have got, and what I might have got by them.

**Discussion: (Think-Pair-Share)**

1. Which resolutions do you think would be the most difficult to keep?

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1. Which resolutions do you find relevant and worth striving for?

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1. Although Codes of Behavior tend to be somewhat rigid, we all have certain standards that we adhere to, or try to adhere to, in our lives.

On your own paper, write your own Code of Behavior, and explain why the things you list are important to you. Model the structure of Edwards’s sentences. Start each line with “RESOLVED.” What are your resolutions? Make at least ten! ATTACH TO THIS PAPER!